



# French Fairy Tales, Folktales and Fables

Read famous French fairy tales in a vast collection of French folklore from authors Charles Perrault, Sophie Segur, and La Fontaine to name a few. [Jump to full list of French fairy tales.](#)

About: Several beloved fairy tale and folklore authors originated in France, and gave the world characters we still love today. Sleeping Beauty and Puss in Boots, among others, leap from the pages into the public consciousness. French fairy tales and folk tales were some of the first oral stories to be collected and written down, and indeed, would go on to inspire other notable storytellers, such as the Brothers Grimm. [Charles Perrault](#), a writer of fairy tales and folklore, was known to have collected nearly all of his tales from folk storytellers, then rewrite them for the upper-class, who were hungry for stories. Like those he inspired, he would use the tales as moral stories for the young and old.



"Violette consented to willingly sleep in the forest. Illustration by Virginia Frances Sterrett from Old French Fairy Tales, published 1910.

Fairy tales and folk tales were extremely popular with French women, who would gather in salons to share their own fairy tale writings and other topics, especially those considered inappropriate to discuss in the presence of a man. Among these women was the Countness D'Aulnoy, also known as Marie-Catherine D'Aulnoy, whose tales were in a more conversational tone. She is noted for popularizing the word “fairy tale,” as her works were described as “Conte de Fées,” which literally means “tales of fairies.” [Sophie Segur](#), another female author, was of Russian birth but wrote primarily for a French audience.

Unlike other folk tale types, French literary fairy tales were viewed as art by the upper class, and were popular in Louis XIV’s court, who encouraged Charles Perrault to write these tales extensively. The King wanted the world to see the intellectual culture of the people of France. The stories have characteristics such as the inclusion of fairies (hence the name given to the genre), as well as plenty of magic, dark and mystical elements. Heroes would encounter the dead and might be transformed into an animal or witness the transformation of another. Women were locked in towers to await their rescue, and sometimes, the villain would win. The themes of the

stories are overwhelming “marvelous,” with magical objects, places, and figures, and even the mere act of traveling can be made marvelous.

French folklore and fairy tales also embraced the fable, and the work of [La Fontaine](#). French fables bear a lyrical style, and depict animals with characteristics similar to humans, such as vanity, slyness, and cleverness. His work was so popular, the fables were often memorized by schoolchildren and recited.

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<b>A</b>	<p>The Ass and the Little Dog</p> <p>The Ass Carrying Relics</p> <p>The Ass and the Masters</p> <p>The Ass Loaded with Sponges</p> <p>The Ape</p> <p>The Ass and the Dog</p> <p>The Acorn and the Pumpkin</p> <p>The Ass Dressed in Lion's Skin</p> <p>The Animals Sick of the Plague</p>	<b>M</b>	<p>The Man and the Wooden God (La Fontaine)</p> <p>The Man and His Image</p> <p>The Monkey and the Leopard</p> <p>The Monkey and the Cat</p> <p>The Mice and the Owl</p> <p>The Miser and the Monkey</p> <p>The Master Cat, or Puss in Boots</p>
<b>B</b>	<p>The Bat and the Two Weasels</p> <p>The Bird Wounded by an Arrow</p> <p>The Battle of the Rats and Weasels</p> <p>The Bear and the Two Companions</p> <p>Beauty and the Beast</p> <p>Blue Beard</p> <p>Blondine Part I: Blondine</p> <p>Blondine Part II: Blondine Lost</p> <p>Blondine Part III: The Forest of Lilacs</p> <p>Blondine Part IV: Blondine's Awakening—Beau-Minon</p> <p>Blondine Part V: Bonne-Biche</p> <p>Blondine Part VI: Blondine's Second Awakening</p> <p>Blondine Part VII: The Parrot</p> <p>Blondine Part VIII: Repentance</p> <p>Blondine Part IX: The Tortoise</p> <p>Blondine Part X: The Journey and Arrival</p> <p>The Blue Bird</p> <p>The Blue Parrot</p> <p>The Brownie of the Lake</p> <p>The Blue Bird</p>	<b>N</b>	<p>Nothing Too Much</p> <p>Nettle Spinner</p>
<b>C</b>	<p>The Council Held by the Rats</p> <p>The Cock and the Fox</p> <p>The Camel and the Floating Sticks</p> <p>The Cunning Fox</p> <p>The Countryman and the Serpent</p> <p>The Carter in the Mire</p> <p>The Cat and the Fox</p> <p>The Cat and the Two Sparrows</p> <p>Cinderella, Or the Little Glass Slipper</p> <p>Cinderella, or the Little Glass Slipper</p> <p>The Castle of Kerglas</p>	<b>O</b>	<p>The Old Women and Her Servants</p> <p>The Old Man and the Ass</p> <p>The Oak and the Reed</p> <p>The Oyster and the Litigants</p> <p>The Old Cat and the Young Mouse</p> <p>Ourson Part I: The Lark and the Toad</p> <p>Ourson Part II: Birth and Infancy of Ourson</p> <p>Ourson Part III: Violette</p> <p>Ourson Part IV: The Dream</p> <p>Ourson Part V: The Toad Again</p> <p>Ourson Part VI: Violette's Sacrifice</p> <p>Ourson Part VII: The Wild Boar</p> <p>Ourson Part VIII: The Conflagration</p> <p>Ourson Part IX: The Well</p> <p>Ourson Part X: The Farm, the Castle, the Forge</p> <p>Ourson Part XI: The Sacrifice</p> <p>Ourson Part XII: The Combat</p> <p>Ourson XIII: The Recompense</p>
<b>D</b>	<p>The Dragon with Many Heads</p> <p>Death and the Woodman</p> <p>The Dove and the Ant</p> <p>The Dog and His Master's Dinner</p> <p>The Two Dogs and the Dead Ass</p> <p>The Dog Whose Ears Were Cropped</p> <p>The Dirty Shepherdess</p> <p>Drakestail</p> <p>Donkey Skin</p> <p>The Dolphin</p>	<b>P</b>	<p>Philomel and Progne</p> <p>The Ploughman and His Sons</p> <p>Prince Hyacinth and the Dear Little Princess</p> <p>Princess Rosette</p> <p>Princess Rosette Part I: The Farm</p> <p>Princess Rosette Part II: Rosette at the Court of the King Her Father</p> <p>Princess Rosette Part III: Family Council</p> <p>Princess Rosette Part IV: The Second Day of the Festival</p> <p>Princess Rosette Part V: Third and Last Day of the Festival</p> <p>Prince Narcissus and the Princess Potentilla</p> <p>Prince Featherhead and the Princess Celandine</p> <p>Prince Vivien and the Princess Placida</p> <p>Prince Darling</p> <p>The Princess Mayblossom</p> <p>The Punishment of Gangana</p> <p>Princess Minon-minette</p>
<b>E</b>	<p>The Ears of the Hare</p> <p>The Eagle and the Magpie</p> <p>Education</p> <p>The Eagle and the Owl</p> <p>The Earthen Pot and the Iron Pot</p> <p>The Enchanted Watch</p> <p>The Enchanted Ring</p>	<b>Q</b>	<p>Quarrel of the Dogs and Cats</p>
<b>F</b>	<p>The Fox, the Flies and the Hedgehog</p> <p>The Fox, the Monkey and the Animals</p> <p>The Fool Who Sold Wisdom</p> <p>The Fox, the Wolf and the Horse</p> <p>The Fox and the Turkeys</p> <p>The Fairies (also known as Diamonds and Toads)</p> <p>Fairy Gifts</p> <p>Felicia and the Pot of Pinks</p> <p>A Fairy's Blunder</p> <p>A French Puck</p> <p>The Four Gifts</p> <p>The Frog and Lion Fairy</p> <p>Fair Goldilocks</p>	<b>R</b>	<p>The Rat Retired from the World</p> <p>The Rat and the Oyster</p> <p>The Rat and the Elephant</p> <p>Riquet with the Tuft</p> <p>Rosanella</p> <p>Ratcatcher</p>
<b>G</b>	<p>The Grasshopper and the Ant</p> <p>Good Little Henry Part I: The Poor Sick Mother</p> <p>Good Little Henry Part II: The Crow, the Cock, and the Frog</p> <p>Good Little Henry Part III: The Harvest</p> <p>Good Little Henry IV: The Vintage</p> <p>Good Little Henry Part V: The Chase</p> <p>Good Little Henry Part VI: The Fishing</p> <p>Good Little Henry Part VII: The Plant of Life</p> <p>The Golden Blackbird</p> <p>Gracioa and Percinet</p> <p>The Golden Branch</p> <p>The Goblin Pony</p> <p>The Groac-h of the Isle of Lok</p>	<b>S</b>	<p>The Swan and the Cook</p> <p>The Shepherd and the Sea</p> <p>The Shepherd and His Flock</p> <p>The Shepherd and His Dog</p> <p>The Sun and the Frogs</p> <p>The Spider and the Swallow</p> <p>The Sick Stag</p> <p>The Shepherd and the Lion</p> <p>The Stag and the Vine</p> <p>The Sleeping Beauty in the Wood</p> <p>The Sleeping Beauty in the Woods</p> <p>Sylvain and Jocosa</p> <p>The Snuff-Box</p> <p>The Story of Pretty Goldilocks</p> <p>The Story of Little King Loc</p> <p>The Satin Surgeon</p> <p>The Story of a Very Bad Boy</p> <p>The Stones of Plouhinec</p> <p>The Story of the Queen of the Flowery Isles</p> <p>The Story of the Three Sons of Hali</p> <p>The Story of the Fair Circassians</p>
<b>H</b>	<p>The Hare and the Partridge</p> <p>The Heifer, the Goat, and the Sheep</p> <p>The Hornets and the Bees</p> <p>The Heron</p> <p>The Head and the Tail of the Serpent</p> <p>The Hog, the Goat and the Sheep</p> <p>The Horse and the Wolf</p> <p>Heart of Ice</p>	<b>T</b>	<p>The Thieves and the Ass</p> <p>The Tortoise and the Two Ducks</p> <p>The Two Asses</p> <p>The Two Mules</p> <p>The Two Rats, the Fox and the Egg</p> <p>The Two Bulls and the Frog</p> <p>The Two Goats</p> <p>Toads and Diamonds</p> <p>The Twelve Dancing Princesses</p> <p>The True History of Little Golden Hood</p> <p>The Three Dwarfs</p> <p>The Two Alms, or the Thanksgiving Gift</p>
<b>I</b>	<p>An Impossible Enchantment</p>	<b>V</b>	<p>The Vultures and the Pigeons</p>
<b>J</b>	<p>The Joker and the Fishes</p>	<b>W</b>	<p>The Wolf Accusing the Fox</p> <p>The Wolf Turned Shepherd</p> <p>The Weasel in the Granary</p> <p>The Wax Candle</p> <p>The Wolf, the Goat and the Kid</p> <p>The Wolf and the Lean Dog</p> <p>The Wolf and the Fox</p> <p>The Woods and the Woodman</p> <p>The Wallet</p> <p>The Woodman and Mercury</p> <p>The Wonderful Sheep</p> <p>The White Doe</p> <p>The Wooden Shoes of Little Wolff</p> <p>The White Cat</p>
<b>L</b>	<p>The Lion and the Ass Hunting</p> <p>The Lion Going to War</p> <p>The Lion and the Gnat</p> <p>The Lion Beaten by the Man</p> <p>The Lion and the Hunter</p> <p>The Lioness and the Bear</p> <p>The Lobster and Her Daughter</p> <p>The Lion and the Monkey</p> <p>The Lion, the Wolf and the Fox</p> <p>Little Red Riding Hood</p> <p>Little Thumb</p> <p>The Little Grey Mouse Part I: The Little House</p> <p>The Little Grey Mouse Part II: The Fairy Detestable</p> <p>The Little Grey Mouse Part III: Prince Gracious</p> <p>The Little Grey Mouse Part IV: The Tree in the Rotunda</p> <p>The Little Grey Mouse Part V: The Casket</p> <p>The Little Soldier</p> <p>The Little Good Mouse</p> <p>A Lost Paradise</p> <p>Lillekort</p> <p>Long Time</p>	<b>Y</b>	<p>The Yellow Dwarf</p>